

Message Text

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SUBJ: VINCI GROUP DISCUSSION OF ANTI-ZIONISM RESOLUTION

1. AT A MEETING OF THE VINCI GROUP YESTERDAY AFTERNOON NOVEMBER 4, CONSIDERATION WAS GIVEN THE THE PROCEDURAL AND TACTICAL SITUATION RELATING TO THE ANTI-ZIONIST RESOLUTION. THE VINCI GROUP--IS AN INFORMAL AND UNSTRUCTURED FORUM FOR CONSULTATION AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AMONG SOME 26 WESTERN ORIENTED AND LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES (MALTA WAS ORIGINALLY INCLUDED IN THE GROUP SEVERAL YEARS AGO AND STILL PARTICIPATES). IT MEETS AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL AND IS CURRENTLY CHAIRED BY CANADA.

2. IN RESPONSE TO CANADIAN AMBASSADOR RAE'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON LATEST DEVELOPMENT. AMB MOYNIHAN VOLUNTEERED THAT GA PRES THORN HAD INFORMED HIM AND LEONARD GARMENT AT NOON THAT HE WAS SCHEDULING DEBATE ON THE ZIONISM RESOLUTION FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10 AND THOUGH IT WOULD COME TO A VOTE AS EARLY AS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11. IF THERE IS NO TIME FOR A VOTE ON TUESDAY, THE VOTE MAY HAVE TO BE DEFERRED UNTIL THURSDAY BECAUSE THORN EXPECTS TO BE AWAY ON WEDNESDAY. IN THE MEANTIME, AMB MOYNIHAN SAID THORN WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HAVING THE VIEWS OF THE GROUP ON HOW THE ISSUE COULD BEST BE DEALT

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WITH, FROM THE DISCUSSION WHICH FOLLOWED IT

APPEARED THAT THERE WAS A GENERAL BELIEF THAT AVOIDANCE OF A VOTE EITHER THROUGH DEFERRAL TO THE NEXT GA OR BY OTHER MEANS OFFERED THE MOST PROMISING APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM. THE FOLLOWING MAJOR PROCEDURAL ALTERNATIVES EMERGED FROM THE DISCUSSION:

A. A POSSIBLE INITIATIVE, PREFERABLY BY AN AFRICAN COUNTRY, TO MOVE FOR POSTPONEMENT OF THE RESOLUTION UNTIL NEXT YEAR. THERE WAS HOWEVER, WIDELY EXPRESSED FEELING AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP THAT THE AFRICANS WERE NOW VERY RELUCTANT TO INITIATE SUCH AN EFFORT AND THAT IT WOULD BE MOST DIFFICULT TO FIND AN AFRICAN COUNTRY THAT WOULD BE WILLING TO DO SO. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT IN THE FINAL ANALYSES A MEMBER IN THE VINCI GROUP ITSELF MIGHT HAVE TO TAKE SUCH AN INITIATIVE.

B. "DEFACTO" POSTPONEMENT OF THE ISSUE TO THE NEXT SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITHOUT A VOTE BY DELAYING CONSIDERATION OF THE RESOLUTION UNTIL TOWARD THE VERY END OF THE SESSION AND THEN HAVING IT POSTPONED FOR LACK OF TIME TO DEAL WITH IT. THE NORWEGIAN AMB SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS APPROACH HAD BEEN SUGGESTED BY AN UNSPECIFIED ARAB SOURCE AS A FACE-SAVING DEVICE FOR AVOIDING THE ISSUE AT THIS TIME. IT WAS NOT CLEAR, HOWEVER, WHETHER THE ADVOCATES OF THIS APPROACH MEANT TO POSTPONE THE ANTI-ZIONIST RESOLUTION ALONE OR THE ITEM AS A WHOLE INCLUDING THE OTHER TWO RESOLUTIONS.

C. AMENDMENT OF THE PREAMBLE TO THE RESOLUTION TO INDICATE THAT ITS TARGET WAS "POLITICAL ZIONISM" AND WAS NOT INTENDED TO BE ANTI-SEMITIC. THE NORWEGIAN AMB, SUPPORTED BY FRG AMB VON WECHMAR, EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THIS WAS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION. THERE SEEMED TO BE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THIS.

D. A POSSIBLE INITIATIVE BY THE SEC GEN OR OTHER SOURCES IN THE SECRETARIAT TO POSTPONE OR OTHERWISE DISPOSE OF THE ISSUE BECAUSE OF ITS OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE AND THE STRAIN WHICH IT WOULD PUT ON THE ORGANIZATION IF IT WERE BROUGHT TO A VOTE.

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E. ON THE PREMISE THAT THE ARAB PROPONENTS OF THE RESOLUTION WILL OBJECT TO ITS POSTPONEMENT FOR A YEAR AND THAT SUCH A COURSE MAY, THEREFORE NOT BE POSSIBLE, DELAY CONSIDERATION OF THE WHOLE ITEM UNTIL NEAR THE END OF THE SESSION AND THEN HAVE IT LEFT HANGING IN MID-AIR FOR WANT OF TIME TO CONSIDER IT.

3. BECAUSE OF THE DESULTORY AND INCONCLUSIVE NATURE OF THE DISCUSSION THUS FAR, AMB MOYNIHAN INTERVENED SHARPLY TO URGE THE GROUP TO CONSTITUTE ITSELF IN A WAY THAT IT MIGHT TAKE DECISIONS ON SPECIFIC NEXT STEPS. OTHERWISE, HE EMPHASIZED, PASSAGE OF THE RESOLUTION WOULD HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON THE VIABILITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM. THIS INTERVENTION GALVANIZED THE GROUP TO MORE CONCRETE CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUE AND RESULTED IN AGREEMENT ON THE FOLLOWING INTERIM MOVES:

A. THE FRG AMB WILL TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY OF A MEETING HE ALREADY HAS SCHEDULED WITH SEC GEN WALDHEIM TO EXPLORE THE PROCEDURAL POSSIBILITIES WITH HIM AND TO ASCERTAIN WHAT INITIATIVES HE MIGHT BE PREPARED TO TAKE.

B. AUSTRALIAN AMB HARRY, IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE WE&O GROUP FOR NOVEMBER WILL EXPLORE WITH THE CHAIRMEN OF OTHER REGIONAL GROUPS THEIR ASSESSMENT OF THE PROBLEM AND POSSIBLE AVENUES OF COOPERATION.

C. CANADIAN AMB RAE WILL RAISE WITH SIERRA LEONE THE POSSIBILITY OF THAT COUNTRY UNDERTAKING AN INITIATIVE TO DEFER CONSIDERATION OF THE RESOLUTION, AS IT DID EARLIER IN COMMITTEE.

D. THE UK WILL EXPLORE POSSIBLE PROCEDURAL INITIATIVES WITH THE UN SECRETARIAT AND SEE WHAT IDEAS MIGHT EMERGE.

E. THE US WILL EXAMINE THE PATTERN OF VOTING IN COMMITTEE, IDENTIFYING THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH ABSTAINED OR WERE ABSENT AND SUGGEST WHICH MIGHT BE A POTENTIALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FRUITFUL TARGET BY MEMBERS OF THE VINCI GROUP.

F. MORE INFORMATION WOULD BE OBTAINED REGARDING THE IDEAS OF THE SO-CALLED "DEFACTO" POSTPONEMENT OF THE ITEM TO DETERMINE MORE CLEARLY WHAT ITS PROPONENTS REALLY HAVE IN MIND.

G. THE LUXEMBOURG AMBASSADOR WILL EXPLORE WITH THORN THE POSSIBILITY OF DELAYING CONSIDERATION OF THE ITEM BY THE PLENARY.

4. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE GROUP WILL MEET AGAIN AT 10:30 A.M. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, TO GET REPORTS FROM THE RESPECTIVE REPRESENTATIVES ON THE FACT FINDING EFFORTS INDICATED ABOVE.

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